

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

David C. Gompert, of Virginia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I support the nomination of Mr. David C. Gompert to be the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence and urge my colleagues to support this nomination. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence unanimously approved Mr. Gompert's nomination by voice vote on October 29.

The Principal Deputy DNI is an extremely important position that has two main responsibilities: 1: to assist the DNI, and 2: to act on behalf of the DNI in his absence or due to a vacancy in the position.

The Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Blair, has made clear to me and to the committee his strong desire to have Mr. Gompert in place to carry out his duties. In fact, Director Blair's predecessor, Admiral Mike McConnell, told the Committee when he was in office that carrying out the DNI function requires a strong and able deputy, and that a lengthy vacancy in the PD-DNI positions was a major problem during his tenure.

Mr. Gompert has made clear that he will assist Director Blair by serving as the lead intelligence official in many policymaking areas, including the numerous National Security Council meetings in which intelligence assessments play a key role.

He will also have an important role to play in assuring that the National Intelligence Program, which was recently disclosed to account for \$49.8 billion in fiscal year 2009, is managed well and provides to the American public the intelligence capability required to keep the nation safe and its policymakers well informed.

Especially given Mr. Gompert's role in the private sector, the committee will look to him to import and insist on strong management practices to reign in troubled acquisitions, improve information sharing, and help run our intelligence apparatus as a true community and not just a collection of agencies.

If confirmed, Mr. Gompert will be the third principal deputy DNI since Congress created the position in 2004. As I mentioned previously, the position has been unfilled for much of the time, so I am pleased that the President has nominated Mr. Gompert and I am also pleased he will be confirmed quickly.

Mr. Gompert was nominated by President Obama on August 6, 2009—the day before Congress broke for the August Recess. After going through the pre-hearing procedures, the Senate Intelligence Committee held a confirmation hearing on the nomination on October 13, 2009. As part of the confirmation process, Mr. Gompert was asked to complete a committee questionnaire, pre-hearing questions, and post-hearing questions for the record. The answers provided by Mr. Gompert have all been posted to our committee website.

From my meeting with Mr. Gompert and based on his answers to the questions put to him by members of the Intelligence Committee, I can say that Mr. Gompert has proven that he will be an excellent addition to help the Office of the Director of National Intelligence carry out all of its important responsibilities and to make continued reforms. His responses to our questions have been thoughtful and thorough.

Mr. Gompert has almost 40 years of experience as a national security professional and information technology company executive. He has also served as a national security analyst in senior White House and State Department positions.

Most recently, Mr. Gompert has worked in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence—ODNI—on a short-term assignment to evaluate how the ODNI's mission managers are working in practice. In that informal role, Mr. Gompert worked to identify what additional measures can be taken to facilitate mission management and other forms of cross-agency teaming of analysts and intelligence collectors.

Before his service at the ODNI, Mr. Gompert was a Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation. Prior to this he was Distinguished Research Professor at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense University.

In 2003 he was a senior advisor for National Security and Defense to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq.

He has also been on the faculty of the RAND Pardee Graduate School, the United States Naval Academy, and the National Defense University.

Mr. Gompert served as President of RAND Europe from 2000 to 2003, during which period he was on the RAND Europe Executive Board and the chairman of RAND Europe-UK. He was vice president of RAND and director of the National Defense Research Institute from 1993 to 2000.

From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Gompert served as special assistant to President George H. W. Bush and senior director for Europe and Eurasia on the National Security Council staff. He has held a number of positions at the State Department, including deputy to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, 1982–83; deputy assistant secretary for European Affairs, 1981–82; deputy director of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, 1977–81; and special assistant to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, 1973–75.

Mr. Gompert worked as an executive in the private sector from 1983–1990, when he held executive positions at Unisys and at AT&T.

At Unisys, 1989–90, he was president of the Systems Management Group and vice president for Strategic Planning and Corporate Development. At AT&T, 1983–1989, he was vice president, civil sales and programs, and director of international market planning.

Mr. Gompert holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from the

United States Naval Academy and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

In sum, Mr. Gompert will be an asset to the Intelligence Community because he has worked at the intersection of intelligence and policy for much of his career.

His background has provided good management experience and a unique perspective on how to address the challenges lying ahead for the Intelligence Community.

I look forward to the Senate approving Mr. Gompert's nomination and I yield the Floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following postal naming bills en bloc: Calendar Nos. 198 through 207: H.R. 955, H.R. 1516, H.R. 1713, H.R. 2004, H.R. 2215, H.R. 2760, H.R. 2972, H.R. 3119, H.R. 3386, and H.R. 3547.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will make a brief comment. I had the good fortune of serving with Wes Watkins, a Member of the House of Representatives from Oklahoma. It is a very good thing that there is going to be a building named after him.

Finally, Rex Lee was my neighbor when I first came back to Congress. His son and my boy Josh were best friends. They still are. Rex Lee was one of America's all-time great legal minds. He argued numerous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He was stricken as a young man with an incurable type of cancer and died at a much too early age. He was first dean of the BYU Law School and then president of BYU. His No. 1 qualification was his legal mind, which was outstanding, and he had such a wonderful family. I think that is wonderful that there is going to be a building named after Rex Lee in Provo, UT. He deserves that.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Rex E. Lee, a man whose legacy we recognize today by renaming the post office in Provo, UT in his honor. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor captured my own feelings about Rex when she said:

Knowing him [Rex] was one of the greatest privileges of my life. Remembering him will be one of the easiest.

Graduating first in his class from the University of Chicago Law School in 1963, Rex went on to serve as a law clerk for Byron White on the U.S. Supreme Court. Then, just 4 years out of law school, Rex argued his first case before the Supreme Court in 1967, and went on in 1972 to become the Founding Dean of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University.